THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 28, 1808.

The Right Hon. C. J. Fox's Account of the last Moments of the Duke of Monmouth.

AT ten o'clock on the 15th of July, 1685, Monmouth proceeded in a carriage of the lieutenant of the Tower, to Tower-Hill, the place destined for his execution. The two bishops were in the carriage with him, and one of them took that opportunity of informing him, that their controversial altercations were not yet at an end; and that upon the scaffold, he would again be pressed for more explicit and satisfactory declarations of repentance. When arrived at the bar, which had been put up for the purpose of keeping out the multitude, Monmouth descended from the carriage, and mounted the scaffold, with a firm step, attended by his spiritual assistants. The sheriffs and executioners were already there. The concourse of spectators was innumerable, and if we are to credit traditional accounts, never was the general compassion more affectingly expressed. The tears, sighs, and groans which the first sight of this heart-rending spectacle produced, were soon succeeded by an universal and awful silence; a respectful attention, and affectionate anxiety, to hear every syllable that should pass the lips of the sufferer.

The duke began by saying he should speak little; he came to die, and he should die a protestant of the church of England. Here he was interrupted by the assistants, and told, that if he was of the church of England, he must acknowledge the doctrine of non-resistance to be true. In vain did he reply, that if he acknowledged the doctrine of the church in general, it included all; they insisted he should own that doctrine particularly with respect to his case, and urged much more concerning their favourite point, upon which, however,

they obtained nothing but a repetition in substance of former answers. He was then proceeding to speak of Lady Harriet Wentworth, of his high esteem for her, and of his confirmed opinion that their connection was innocent in the sight of God; when Goslin, the sheriff, asked him, with all the unfeeling bluntness of a vulgar mind, whether he was ever married to her. The duke refusing to answer, the same magistrate, in the like strain, though changing his subject, said he hoped to have heard of his repentance for the treason and bloodshed which had been committed; to which the prisoner replied with great mildness, that he died very penitent. Here the churchmen again interposed, and renewing their demand of particular penitence and public acknowledgment upon public affairs, Monmouth referred them to the following paper which he had signed that morning:—

"I declare, that the title of king was forced upon me; and, that it was very much contrary to my opinion when I was proclaimed. For the satisfaction of the world, I do declare, that the late king told me he was never married to my mother. Having declared this, I hope the king, who is now, will not let my children suffer on this account. And to this I put my hand this 15th day of July, 1685.

"MONMOUTH."

There was nothing, they said, in that paper about resistance; nor, though Monmouth, quite worn out with their importunities, said to one of them, in a most affecting manner, "I am to die,—pray, my lord,—I refer to my paper," would these men think it consistent with their duty to desist. They were only a few words they desired on one point. The substance of these applications on one hand, and answers on the other, was repeated, over and over again, in a manner that could not be believed, if the facts were not attested by the signature of the persons principally concerned.* If the duke, in declaring his sorrow for what had passed, used the word invasion, "give it the true name," said they, "and call it rebellion." "What name you please," replied the mild-tempered Monmouth. He was sure he was going to everlasting happiness, and considered the serenity of his mind, in his present circumstances, as a certain earnest of the favour of his Creator. His repentance, he said, must be true, for he had no fear of dying, he should die like a lamb. "Much may come from natural courage," was the unfeeling and stupid reply of one of the assistants. Monmouth, with that modesty inseparable from true bravery, denied that he was in general less fearful than other men, maintaining

* Vide Somers's Tracts, I. 455.

taining that his present courage was owing to his consciousness that God had forgiven him his past transgressions, of all which generally he repented with all his soul.

At last the reverend assistants consented to join with him in prayer, but no sooner were they risen from their kneeling posture, than they returned to their charge. Not satisfied with what had passed, they exhorted him to a true and thorough repentance; would he not pray for the king? and send a dutiful message to his majesty, to recommend the dutchess and his children? "As you please," was the reply; "I pray for him and for all men."

He now spoke to the executioner, desiring that he might have no cap over his eyes, and began undressing. One would have thought that, in this last sad ceremony, the poor prisoner might have been unmolested, and that the divines would have been satisfied that prayer was the only part of their function for which their duty now called upon them. They judged differently, and one of them had the fortitude to request the duke, even in this stage of the business, that he would address himself to the soldiers then present, to tell them he stood a sad example of rebellion, and entreat the people to be loyal and obedient to the king, "I have said I will make no speeches," repeated Monmouth, in a tone more peremptory than he had before been provoked to; "I will make no speeches. I come to die." "My lord, ten words will be enough," said the persevering divine, to which the duke made no answer; but, turning to the executioner, expressed a hope that he would do his work better now than in the case of Lord Russel. He then felt the axe, which he apprehended was not sharp enough, but being assured that it was of proper sharpness and weight, he laid down his head. In the mean time, many fervent ejaculations were used by the reverend assistants, who, it must be observed, even in these moments of horror, showed themselves not unmindful of the points upon which they had been disputing; praying God to accept his imperfect and general repentance.

The executioner now struck the blow, but so feebly or unskilfully, that Monmouth, being but slightly wounded, lifted up his head, and looked him in the face as if to upbraid him, but said nothing. The two following strokes were as ineffectual as the first; and the headsman, in a fit of horror, declared he could not finish his work. The sheriffs threatened him; he was forced again to make a further trial, and in two more strokes separated the head from the body.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

COURT of KING's BENCH,

November 12.

THE KING *v.* THE INHABITANTS OF BRAMPTON.

THIS was a sessions case. The pauper claimed a settlement by marriage, and stated, that in the year 1796, she was married at Cape St. Nicholas Mole, in St. Domingo, to her husband, a dragoon in the British service. That being desirous of being married, they sent for a priest, and were married by a person in a priest's habit, whom they called the father in red. He married them in a chapel, and pronounced the ceremony from a book in the French language, which being interpreted to her, who was ignorant of French, appeared to be in substance like the English marriage service. She afterwards cohabited with her husband as his wife 'till his death in 1807. Two justices removed her to her husband's settlement, and the sessions quashed their order.

Mr. Wilson now contended, that it was not a valid marriage, it being by a Roman priest, not according to his own ritual, and contended, that to make a marriage valid abroad, it must either be according to the laws of the country where it is solemnized, or according to our laws.

Mr. Peake, on the other side, contended, that it was a valid marriage. The Marriage Act did not extend to it, and by the common law any words of contract, by words in the present tense, operating immediately, constituted a good marriage. This was by a person who must be taken to be a priest.

Lord Ellenborough, C. J. and the rest of the court held, that this was a valid marriage. The person who officiated must be presumed to have been a priest, and a roman catholic priest was so far acknowledged by our law, that if he recanted his errors he required no fresh ordination, and there is now a bishop (we believe Dr. O'Brien, bishop of Meath), who had no other ordination than as a catholic priest.

The order of sessions was therefore quashed.

FOR THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SINGULAR INSTANCE *of* CORPULENCY.

A Pauper in the work-house of South Petherton, in the county of Somerset, named Mary Pinkard, aged upwards of 65 years, is supposed to be the most corpulent woman in

in this kingdom. Her arm, above the elbow, measures about 22 inches in circumference; and her other limbs and body are commensurable therewith, and of such magnitude, that her legs have been unable to support the weight, for about ten years past, during which time she has been totally confined to her chamber and bed, excepting, by the help of ropes and attendants, she has been moved to sit on the side of her bed, while the same has been shaken for her ease. Her case was primarily supposed by the faculty to be dropsical, but has long since been otherwise determined, and is become the more singular, by her having lived on the common allowances of sustenance, with others, the adult paupers. Such is her corporeal protuberance, that when sitting, she is deprived of the sight of her knee; and, though she has been so long confined to her bed, she has hitherto been preserved from being bed-galled, notwithstanding her weight is supposed to be about twenty score. She seems, by her vivacity, to enjoy a good state of health, and seldom complains of any pain or uneasiness.

Postcript to Mr. Crocker's Account of the Thunder-Storm in Somersetshire, on the 15th of July, 1808, containing Hints of some cautionary Means, by which the Dangers of Lightning, to animal Life and Safety, may be avoided.

IN storms of this kind we are frequently, from inadvertence, exposed to imminent danger, when a timely, and in general a very practicable, mere change of station would secure us against it.

It has been long known that the cause of thunder is the same with that which produces the ordinary phenomena of electricity; thunder being no other than a grand species of electricity, or, rather, that electricity in the hands of man is a feeble imitation of thunder from the hand of the Almighty. A thunder-cloud may be considered as a large conductor, actually insulated and surcharged with electric matter; which, should it meet with another cloud not electrified, or less so than itself, will discharge part of its subtile fluid into the latter, by flashes of lightning and formidable reports of thunder; until an equilibrium of quantity be restored.

Whether this principle, the electric fluid, actually emanates from the sun, and commixes with our atmosphere, as some philosophers conceive; or whether it is a principle inherent in the earth and its appendages, *per se*, is a question not necessary to be here discussed: certain it is, that we find it abundantly diffused through the atmosphere, and on the surface of the earth, and on various bodies attached to the earth: we know also that some kinds of bodies will convey this fluid with

greater

greater facility than others will. Such bodies as most readily convey it from object to object, are called conductors: the most common of which are all metals, in the following order of perfection; gold, silver, platina, brass, iron, tin, and lead; metallic ores, the fluids of animal bodies, water, ice, snow, green wood, and most earthy substances. There are other bodies which will not, without difficulty, conduct it; and which, on that account, are called non-conductors: such are glass, sulphur, resin, silk, cotton, feathers, wool, hair, paper, ashes, and most hard stones.

From hence it may be inferred that, in dangerous thunder weather, we should carefully avoid standing or sitting in contact with any of the conductors.

By dangerous thunder weather, I mean such storms as are over our heads or near to us. The distances of which may be nearly ascertained, by the known progress of sound through the air, which is at the rate of about 381 yards in a second of time; so that if there are nine beats of a clock, or ten of the pulse of a person in health, between a flash of lightning and the report of thunder, the distance is then about two miles, and no danger is at hand: but if no more than about four beats of a clock, or five pulsations, are between them, danger may be apprehended, and precaution should be taken.

In the open air, standing under tall trees, especially such as have dead or dry branches, or against very lofty buildings, is dangerous.

As lightning runs swiftly along, or plays amongst metallic bodies, let care be taken to avoid all such, whether out of doors or within.

All doors and windows of apartments should be set open, that lightning may have free passage through.

A sitting or recumbent posture on chairs, mattresses, couches, or beds, filled with hair, wool, or feathers, in such part of a room as may be out of the influence of conductors, or may not be in the way of any current between windows and doors, is, undoubtedly, the safest situation that can be chosen.

The furniture of the fire-place should be carefully avoided.

So also should the wires and cords of bells.

Picture frames, and other furniture gilt, are unsafe to stand close by. A most remarkable effect of lightning, in gilded rooms, happened in the hotel occupied by Lord Tilney, at Naples, in the year 1793. The apartments were decorated with great elegance, as was the taste of persons of rank in that country: the cornices of the rooms were gilt, in the Italian manner, from whence proceeded a number of plat-bands, serving as frames to the tapestry, gilt likewise; so also were the borders of the pannels of the wainscot, the frames of pictures, mirrors, and door-posts.

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On the 24th of March, Lord Tilney had a numerous party at dinner. A loud clap of thunder alarmed the company, and in an instant the whole apartment seemed to be on fire. Every one thought himself struck by the lightning; but, to their great joy, no one was wounded; for the prodigious quantity of metal conductors enabled the lightning to pass, without injuring any one.

On examination, it was found that great part of the cornices were damaged, particularly at the corners, and where bell-wires passed through; picture frames, much injured; and some of the bell-cords burnt.

By these facts, we have clear testimony that the electric fluid most readily attaches itself to metallic conductors; which in this instance, were the means of saving the company from destruction; had any of them, at the time, been in contact with these gaudy trappings, it is probable that their lives would have been the sacrifice.

A. C.

Remarks on historical Relations of Poisonings.

THE celebrated Germanicus Cæsar, the nephew and adopted son of the emperor Tiberius, is by some writers positively asserted to have been poisoned by Piso, prefect of Syria, at the instigation of Tiberius. Suetonius and Tacitus relate the circumstances of his death, and both mention the suspicion of poison, the former seeming to give credit to it, the latter not. From their accounts, particularly that of Tacitus, which is the fullest, it appears, that Germanicus, being sent by his uncle to command in the east, was followed by Piso, a man of a violent temper, and hostile to the young prince; and there is good reason to suppose that Tiberius, in conformity with the maxims of his dark and crafty policy, had purposely chosen a person of that character to check and controul his too popular nephew. Germanicus, after visiting various countries, returning from Egypt to Antioch, fell sick there, and lingering some time between apparent amendment and relapse, at length died. As he was the great favourite of the Roman people, his death excited universal commiseration, which his friends took every means to augment; and suspicions of foul practices were soon raised against Piso, which were at length brought to judicial examination before the senate. The emperor seems to have acted with great fairness and propriety on the occasion, suffering the accusation to take its free course, yet endeavouring to moderate the violence and prejudice of the public mind. The charges against Piso were various; but that respecting the poison was supported by the following evi-

dence alone. The act was asserted to have been committed at a banquet, given by Germanicus himself, in which Piso sat next to him, who was imagined to have poisoned his food by touching it with infected hands—a supposition than which one more improbable and even absurd has scarcely ever been made in a similar case! The dead body, when exposed on the forum of Antioch, is said by Suetonius to have exhibited livid spots, with foam at the mouth; and a very extraordinary circumstance is related, namely, that the heart remained unconsumed on the funeral pyre; a fact which the philosophy of the day regarded as decisive of poison; though, indeed, Pliny asserts it also to occur in those who died of the *morbus cardiacus*. It is further asserted, that a famous female poisoner, an intimate of Plancina, the wife of Piso, on being sent for from the province to Rome, died suddenly at Brundusium, and that poison was found tied up in a knot of her hair. As no signs of violent death were discovered in her body, it seems to have been imagined that the power of the poison penetrated through her skull into her brain. Such weak and ridiculous arguments are surely more calculated to excite disbelief than conviction.

One thing which appeared on the trial, though a proof of the bad intentions of the enemies of Germanicus, yet, according to my principles, is rather an argument against the poisoning. This was, that about the house in which he lodged, certain leaden images, relics of human bodies, and verses of incantation, were found, by which his foes evidently hoped to render his disease mortal. If they were conscious of having administered poison, these magical practices might have been spared.

On the whole, though Piso, despairing to survive the popular odium against him, and probably conscious of unwarrantable conduct towards the prince, put an end to his own life in prison, yet it appears to me almost certain, that the death of Germanicus was owing to natural disease, aggravated, perhaps, by alarm and vexation; and in no respect to poison.

One of the most famous stories in the annals of poisoning is that of Pope Alexander VI. and his son Cæsar Borgia, of whom the first is said to have been killed, and the second thrown into a dangerous illness, by poison taken through mistake, which they had themselves prepared for others. The characters of these monsters in the human shape will certainly render credible any *useful* crime which comes within the compass of the most consummate villainy; but at the same time, this just prejudice against them may easily become a cause of error in particular cases. The story is related with great diversity of circumstance by different authors; but taking that given by Tomasi, in his life of Cæsar Borgia, as apparently the most accurate, we shall probably find reason to doubt whether poison

had any concern in the event. The simple narrative of what is known to have happened is the following.

Pope Alexander having made a promotion of nine new cardinals, invited them and some of the old ones to an entertainment given at the villa of a cardinal near the Vatican. He and his son went to the place about the cool of the evening. It was the 2d of August, and the weather extremely hot The pope called for a draught of wine to quench his thirst, and his son followed his example. The guests arriving soon after, they sat down to supper; when the pope was suddenly taken ill, fainted away, and was carried out senseless. His son was presently seized in the same manner, and was also carried home. The pope recovered his senses after a time, but fell into a violent fever. He was blooded, and other medicines were employed; but his strength gradually failing, he died on the eighth day.* His son had a long and severe illness, but at length, through the strength of his constitution, recovered. So far we are guided by acknowledged fact. The secret part of the story relates, that some bottles of wine, drugged with a white powder like sugar, the usual poison employed by these miscreants, were sent from the pope's cellar to the villa, with private orders to the butler to serve it to such of the guests alone as should be pointed out to him. The head-butler being by chance absent when Alexander called for wine before supper, the under-butler, knowing nothing of the contrivance, or thinking this marked wine the most precious, served it to the pope and his son. These circumstances, are neither in themselves very probable, nor does it appear how, if true, they should come to be publicly known. It is not likely that a man so politic as Alexander should, at the time he had formed great projects, for the execution of which it was necessary to gain as many friends as possible, commit a crime which could not fail to be strongly suspected, and to raise the utmost odium against him. That fancy and fiction were busy on the occasion, appears from a marvellous tale related by Tomasi, that the pope, who had constantly borne about him the holy sacrament in a gold box (an astrologer having told him that it would preserve his life from all dangers), discovered on coming to the villa that he had left it at home, and sent in all haste for it, but had swallowed the fatal draught before the messenger returned. This messenger, too, who was a cardinal, is said to have seen in his holiness's chamber a vision, representing a dead pope extended on a catafalc. Every judicious enquirer

* The pope's chamberlain, Burchard, says, that he was attacked by a fever on the 12th, was let blood on the 16th when the disorder appeared to become a tertian, and that he died on the 18th. The difference of date is probably owing to a different reckoning of style.

knows how much a mixture of incredible matter tends to discredit the other circumstances of a narration. But in my opinion the strongest ground of unbelief in this story is, that the death may be accounted for another way, and that the incidents of the disease do not correspond with the supposition of poison. In the unwholesome climate of Rome, the sudden cooling of the body at the close of a hot day by a large draught of cold liquor, is surely a very probable cause of an acute disease; and it appears, both from the express words of the writer, and from the treatment, that this disease was fever. The supposed poison, resembling sugar, was doubtless a preparation of arsenic; but its effects are not to excite fever, nor would bleeding be thought of as a remedy. If it were possible that any death of Alexander VI. should *not* be attributed to poison, the circumstances of this would seem as little suspicious as any mode in which he could die. It is true, the concomitant illness of his son renders the fact more singular; but as the same natural cause operated on both, it is reasonable to suppose that the effects would be similar.

N. N.

P. S.—Since this paper was written, I find from Mr. Roscoe's Life of Pope Leo. X. that Muratori has produced many authorities to refute the notion that Alexander VI. died of poison. The note from Burchard is transcribed from that valuable work.

FRENCH RETREAT FOR OLD AGE.

[Extracted from a recent Publication by Samuel Edwards Freeman, Esq.]

AT Challiot, most beautifully situated about two miles from Paris, commanding an extensive view of the city, the Seine, and the Champ de Mars, is an establishment for nearly one hundred aged persons, male and female, whose countenances indicate an unusual degree of happiness and contentment. The chambers occupied by the female part of the society, compose the right wing of the house. Each has a bed-chamber to herself exclusively; and there is one sitting-room appropriated to two females. Their clothing, if required, is found them. The left wing of the house is occupied by the males, who are distributed in the same manner as the females, each having a bed-room to himself and a common parlour being allotted to two persons; in which they receive the visits of their relatives and friends, without the inconvenience of being obtruded upon by strangers. A husband and wife have a room also to themselves.

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The previous contribution of a monthly subscription, is the indispensible condition of admittance to this asylum. Every subscriber must pay regularly and punctually ten-pence per month from ten till thirty years of age; one shilling and three-pence per month from thirty to fifty; and one shilling and eight-pence per month from fifty to seventy. These different payments will amount to 45l. which must be completely made up before a person can acquire the right of admission. Hence, if any one of more than ten years of age, should offer as a subscriber, he or she must deposit, at the time of subscription, and according to his or her age, the sum which would have been paid if the subscription had commenced at ten years old. In order to give encouragement to benevolence, all persons who are disposed to subscribe, may transfer their right to as many persons as they have made subscriptions; subject to the condition, that the person who is to be benefited by the transfer, shall be nearly of the same age as the benefactor, and that he shall not be admitted before the attainment of seventy years of age, and payment of the sum of 45l. This transferred subscription is extinguished by the death of the substitute. The funds are placed on securities, and are subjected to an administration, which is said to be in every respect safe and undeniable.

Their diet corresponds with the neatness and simplicity of their apartments. At one o'clock dinner is served up in the hall for the society; and at seven they again assemble at supper. Besides a sufficient quantity of meat and vegetables, each person is allowed a pound and half of bread, the men a bottle of wine, which is of the thin weak beverage of the country; and the woman half a bottle daily.

In case of sickness they are removed to a particular part of the house, which is used as an infirmary; where they are provided with medical assistance, and experience every possible attention. In case of their decease, they are decently interred in the neighbouring church, at the expense of the society; or elsewhere, at the expence of their friends.

Their time is at their own disposal. They may employ themselves in any profitable occupation, provided it does not interfere with the rules and government of the house. Several females are engaged in needle-work for their friends and families. What little pecuniary emoluments they acquire by their industry, supply them with pocket-money.

There is no unreasonable restriction on their amusements; they are entirely their own masters. They are all more or less engaged in religious exercises. There was a charm in this retreat, which imagination can only picture to the mind. At that period of life, when both mind and body require repose, when it is necessary that old age should abstract itself from

the busy hum of men, and " walk pensive on the silent solemn shore of that vast ocean it must sail so soon," what can be more consolatory than the consciousness of having a retreat, where in consequence of the exertions of former industry, infirmities are relieved, wants are supplied, and religious duties provided?

The benefits of this institution are open to every one, a matter of compact and purchase, and not of favour or solicitation. It offers the means whereby, after the attainment of seventy years, or in case of infirmity at an earlier period of life, the industrious and prudent may secure a peaceful and comfortable asylum; always acceptable to them, because it is of their own acquirement; and at the same time beneficial to the public, because it is the price of that prudence and that industry which, while they confirm and reward the good habits of the possessor, afford example and inducement to other persons in similar situations.

OBSERVATIONS.

The tendency of this institution is to encourage prospective prudence in the poor; habituating the subscribers to apply in a provision for old age, that portion of their earnings, which might otherwise be wasted and lost. It differs from the constitution of almshouses and hospitals, for the aged and unfortunate, in this respect, that the party is not indebted to the compassion or liberality of others; but purchases the possession of this freehold interest for the close of life, by his own industry and economy in the active part of it. The acquirement is the act of the individual, and the result of his own care and foresight. Instead of checking or paralysing, it has the effect of encouraging industry. It offers the sure means of providing against that species of adversity, from which old age, which is destitute of any certain provision, can seldom hope to be exempt.

There is probably no country in the world, where provisions of this kind would be so practicable, and so useful, and yet, at the same time, where it would require so much arrangement and management, as in England. In manufactures, in some instances in agriculture, in domestic service, and in the army and navy, with that increase of pay which has been so well merited, individuals are enabled in the early and middle stages of life to do much for themselves.

Those who do not contract early marriages, have it generally in their power to make a prospective provision for old age. And if inducement and means were supplied them, they would make this prudential application of their weekly surplus, instead of consigning it to the alehouse or spirit shop. I am not

unaware

unaware that friendly societies are directed towards the same end; but it is obvious that many of them fail in security, and that others are perverted and abused, and must be perpetually liable to perversion and abuse, in the hands in which the government of them is placed. In fact, this retreat for age and infirmity, would not much differ from that, which has been proposed in a former number of the Reports of the Society for Bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor; and which also made a part of Mr. Pitt's Plan for Relief of the Poor.

DESCRIPTION *of* ABERDEEN.

NEW ABERDEEN, situated between the rivers Dee and Don, is a large and well-built city, adjoining to the old town of that name. Some of the streets are wide, and the houses lofty and spacious. They are all built of granite, the same kind of stone which is sent from thence to pave the streets of London. This stone is so hard that no people can work it, except those who have been accustomed to it from their youth. The instrument they use is very simple; it is a kind of hammer, with two sharp points. The principal art in working the stone seems to be the perseverance. And who will deny that an Aberdeen's-man possesses this quality? The stone, however, when worked looks well, and must be very durable. The quarries, and stones taken in different parts, out of the fields, constantly occupy eight hundred hands.

The trade of Aberdeen is chiefly to Holland and the Baltic, the port of London, and a few vessels to the Mediterranean. Its manufactures and trade, woollen, thread, and cotton stockings, but chiefly woollen, of which they send a great quantity annually to Holland and Germany; grain, salmon, dried skate, ling, cod, &c. The stocking trade is computed to be worth 100,000l. annually to Aberdeen; the salmon fishing 10,000l. The pier of Aberdeen is 1200 feet long, built in a circular form, for the purpose of keeping the river Dee within certain bounds, to clear the harbour, and obtain a sufficient draught of water; which has had the desired effect, as they have now thirteen feet water over the bar, which will admit ships of 400 tons burthen. This pier cost 16,000l. It is very strong, being built of granite, many pieces of which, particularly those on the outside way (for on the inside of the parapet there are three foot-ways, one above another), being three tons in weight, and all of them at least four feet in length. This projection gradually increases in both thickness and height, as it advances within the domain of the sea. Where it first sets off from the land side, it is twenty feet in breadth at the base, twelve at the

top,

top, and in height sixteen; besides the parapet wall on the northern side, which is four feet six inches thick, and four feet high. Where it joins the head of the pier it is thirty-six feet at the base, and twenty-four feet at the top, including the parapet, which is here eight feet high, and ten broad. The eastern extremity, or head of this magnificent structure, presenting a bold front to the utmost rage of Neptune, is sixty feet in diameter, and in height to the platform thirty feet; which, with the parapet, make thirty-eight feet. On the opposite, that is, the south side of this projection, a small pier runs along the shelving and rocky extremity of the Grampians; and here stands the little town of Torry, which is rapidly increasing in industry, wealth, and population.

The entrance into the spacious and secure harbour of Aberdeen, between these two piers, is picturesque and noble. The town, which is of great extent, rises to view in the form of an amphitheatre, and the quay, extended along the harbour, and lined with public offices and warehouses for the reception of trade, give you an idea at once of the wealth, and wise as well as liberal economy of the inhabitants. At the end of the quay stands the little fishing town of Foot-dee, interspersed with wharfs, where not less than a dozen of vessels are to be seen on the stocks at the same time. For the purpose of warding off from the harbour, the sands carried down by the Don, a mole has lately been extended, at the junction of that river with the Dee, which has added several feet to the depth of water at the bar of this last-mentioned river.

In Aberdeen there are also two large kirks close together, Gordon's school, at some distance from the city, with a large garden round it. This school, which is a handsome stone building, supports and educates eighty boys, in reading, writing, arithmetic, French, &c. A college here founded by Earl Marischal, about the same size as king's college, is attended by the same number of students, but none of these live in the college. The library here is much inferior to that of the other seminary. The hall is a handsome room, with a full length picture of Lord Bute, a half-length of Lord Buchan, and some other good portraits. The museum is a small room, containing a very indifferent collection of curiosities, but a number of excellent instruments for experimental philosophy. The town-hall is a spacious and elegant room. Here is also a grammar-school and an hospital, a very plain building, which sends out annually between seven and eight hundred patients.

The two cities of Aberdeen contain about 20,000 souls; and there are about 5000 in the suburbs. The style of living, and the manners of the individual inhabitants of Aberdeen, do not disgrace the public spirit which appears in their buildings.

They

They are well-informed, polite, hospitable, cheerful, gay, and great lovers of music.

Aberdeen, insulated from the south of Scotland by long land carriage, and the stony mountains from thence to Stonehaven, but approximated to London by easy water conveyance, draws her ideas of trade, as well as her terms in business, and the manner of her shops, directly from the British metropolis. Hence too, it may be fairly presumed, they derive, in part, that political vigilance and active patriotism, for which, among the counties of Scotland, that of Aberdeen is justly distinguished. It was the gentlemen of Aberdeenshire who took the lead in those measures that have been pursued with very considerable success for the abolition of nominal and fictitious votes, as it was the citizens of Aberdeen that first moved, and have been the most active in promoting a reform in the royal burghs.

Anecdote of M. de Louvois, Minister to Lewis XIV.

DURING the residence of M. de Louvois at Brest, when he was 18 years of age, encumbered with debts and without money, he wrote to his father in the hope of having his grievances redressed, but receiving no answer to his letter, he sold all his clothes (reserving no part of his wardrobe but a dirty half worn frock), for the purpose of defraying the necessary expences of his journey to the château de Louvois, where the marquis de Souvré (his father) passed the whole of the summer. M. de Souvré received him very coldly, and, during the first days of their meeting, M. de Louvois did not dare to renew the subject of his wants.

One evening M. de Souvré acquainted his son, that, on the following day, he expected a very brilliant assembly of the most considerable persons of the neighbourhood to dine with him, and "I hope (he added) that you'll leave off that filthy old travelling coat, and dress yourself properly for the occasion." M. de Louvois said nothing of the penury of his wardrobe, and that he literally had no other coat than that on his back; but he declared that he had brought none but old clothes with him; yet being desirous of a new coat, he seized this opportunity of asking for money, a request that M. de Souvré negatived in a tone so decidedly adverse to the proposition, as to annihilate every hope of success, and it was consequently abandoned. In the chamber of the chateau, where M. de Louvois slept, there were hangings of an old tapestry on which were pourtrayed the memoirs of several celebrated personages; from this tapestry he detached a pannel, that represented the story of Rinaldo and Armida, and, sending for a taylor of the village,

ordered him to make a complete suit of clothes, coat, waistcoat, and breeches, with these materials; the taylor was commanded to execute the work by an early hour the next morning; the workman, however, solicitous to effect something like arrangement in this whimsical composition, made the sleeves of the two arms of Armida, and upon the back of the coat he placed the head of Rinaldo, ornamented by a beautiful helmet, supported by two Cupids;—fragments of shields, and other scattered armorial bearings formed the rest of the habiliments with which M. de Louvois equipped himself.

In the full enjoyment of this playful frolic, dressed after this grotesque manner in the month of July, he waited in his chamber (not without impatience) the arrival of the company; as soon as he heard the coaches enter the court-yard, he descended with a light and bounding step, and notwithstanding the heavy weight of his clothing, he sprung forward with agility to hand the ladies from their carriages; this piece of etiquette he performed with a grave and serious deportment, and an air so simple and natural as astonished the spectators, who questioned him in vain on the subject of his whimsical appearance. Apparently deaf to their enquiries, he, in a kind of triumphant manner, conducted the fair guests into the saloon. When M. de Souvré beheld his son invested with the spoils of his chamber, he started back two steps, and in a thundering tone demanded the explanation of this extravagant folly: "My father," replied M. de Louvois, "you ordered me to put on another coat, and as I had no other at my disposal, I was under the necessity of making one of this stuff, that I might shew my obedience to your commands."

AN ANECDOTE.

SCIPIO made an alliance with Syphax, the king of the Masæsulians, and passed over to Sicily. Asdrubal had a daughter, exceedingly beautiful, whom he promised in marriage to Syphax, if he would break off his alliance with the Romans. He married the young lady, joined the Carthaginians, and immediately wrote to Scipio to forbid his coming to Lybia. Scipio, knowing that the Romans made great account of the alliance with Syphax, and that, if they knew that he had joined the enemy they would not venture to pass over to Lybia, called a council, and gave an opposite turn to the letters of Syphax, as if he had invited the Romans to that country, and was surprised at their delay in coming; so that they ought not to relax the vigour of the alliance. By these representations he inspired the Romans with ardour and courage. They desired the day to be fixed, on which it would be proper to sail over.

Hints to prevent the Clothes of Females from catching Fire.

OF late there have been many instances of women being burnt to death from their clothes accidentally taking fire. The following hints, if duly attended to, would often prevent the accident proving fatal. It is generally the lower part of the dress which catches fire. Then, if the person remains in an upright posture, the flame naturally rising upwards, will quickly reach the head or stomach, and be likely to have a fatal effect. But if she immediately lay down upon the floor, she might, in general, very easily extinguish the flame by rolling herself. Or if a man be present, he may pull off his coat, and with that very soon extinguish the blaze. If there be a hearth rug, it would answer the purpose better than almost any other thing.

It the want of knowing before hand what is proper to be done in such a case, that occasions loss of time, and thereby increases the mischief. And then the violent fright destroys all presence of mind; and makes the case become quite desperate, which at first might have easily have been remedied.

DEATH OF PRINCIPAL CAMPBELL.

THE closing scenes of the life of that illustrious professor of learning, Mr. Principal Campbell, are thus recorded by Dr. Beattie, in a letter to Sir W. Forbes:

"At a time," says he, "when Dr. Campbell seemed to be just expiring, and had told his wife and niece that it was so, a cordial happened unexpectedly to give him relief. As soon as he was able to speak, he said that he wondered to see their countenances so melancholy, and covered with tears, in the apprehension of his departure. 'At that instant (said he) I felt my mind in such a state, in the thoughts of my immediate dissolution, that I can express my feelings in no other way than by saying that I was in a rapture!' The feelings of such a mind as Dr. Campbell's (adds Dr. Beattie) in such an awful moment, when he certainly retained the full use of his faculties, deserve to be attended to. When will an infidel die such a death?"

"There is something," observes a periodical writer, commenting on the same passage, "in the concluding part of this letter, so consolatory to the weakness of human nature, and so awfully satisfactory, that we could wish it published by the trumpet of an archangel, from one end of the earth to the other."

To the considerate and pious mind how delightful must be the hope to experience such a heavenly temper at so awful a crisis as that of an approaching dissolution!

Answer, by S. P. of Ottery St. Mary, to R. Loosemore's Charade, inserted September 26.

WHILST the dear partner of a virtuous wife,
Of winds and seas defies the dreadful strife,
Praise be to her who, at the cottage door,
With NEEDLE-WORK beguiles the lonesome hour.

† Similar answers have been received from S. Duck, and Frederic Arden, of South Petherton; W. D. Champion, and H. B of Bridgewater; John Woodman, of North Curry; T. Kite, of Chard; J. Saunders, and J. Treadwin, of Exeter; H. Easter, of Poole; D. G. of Hinton St. George; Radius, of Noss Revelstoke school; William Petherick, of St. Austell; and E. Thrawen, of Windwhistle.

Answer, by J. Saunders, of Exeter, to W. Petherick's Anagram, inserted the 26th of September.

DRAKE is the admiral I surmise
Whom you have hidden in disguise.

, We have received similar answers from J. Ball, J. French, and J. Patten, at Evershot school; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; H. Easter, of Poole; J. W. of Charmouth; T. Whicker, and J. Treadwin, of Exeter; and F. Arden, and S. Duck, of South Petherton.

Answer, by J. Treadwin, of Exeter, to S. Duck's Rebus, inserted September 26.

WHEN from the western sky the sun retires,
And quenches in old ocean's waves its fires,
Round desart tracts the hungry LIONS prowl,
And famish'd tygers o'er their victims growl.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. Saunders, of Exeter; W. D. Champion, and H. B. of Bridgewater; F. Arden, of South Petherton; J. Ball, J. Patten, and J. French, of Evershot school; Hester Easter, of Poole; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; Radius, of Noss Revelstoke school; W. Kent, near Camelford; J. Woodman, of North Curry; T. Pearce, of Chard; a youth; and T. Hawken, of Helstone.

A REBUS, *by Radius, of Noss Revelstoke School, near Plymouth.*

A God of Egypt pray first find;
Next what is useful to mankind;
A foreign beast you'll next select;
An English fruit pray then detect:
These four initials, join'd with care,
A well-known bird they'll make appear.

A CHARADE, *by R. Loosemore, of Tiverton.*

MY first you doubtless will explore,
Remote, on India's far-fam'd shore,
Where sultry sun-beams glow;
My next is often useful found,
When dreary night spreads darkness round
On mortals here below:
The youth who is with virtue blest
Will certainly my whole detect.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Elegiac Stanzas, &c. written on the Success Fishing Boat, the Property of David, and Honor ***.

ON HER CONDEMNATION.

TWICE fifteen years the fam'd Success held good,
Brav'd every storm, and stemm'd the tossing flood;
Fain would I now her virtuous deeds disclose,
The weak and frail in her have found repose.
Unable now to bear the hammer's blow,
She's lost to Honour, and to David too.

ON BREAKING UP THE SUCCESS.

AGAIN the dame awakes my plaintive song,
A once fam'd fair from lofty branches sprung;
Her recent death fill'd* David's heart with pain,
And now fresh sorrows bleed at every vein.
What tho' unpolish'd youths may sport and laugh,
The man of Honour now resumes his scarf;
Oft by constraint she push'd her stately head
To rest her sides upon a sandy bed.
No longer bound beneath tyrannic 'squires,
Her pitchy ribs ascend in vivid fires;
Clean swept away, nor leave a trace on earth,
To raise the dunghill, and to grace the hearth!
Without a stone, or monumental bust,
Ashes to ashes, sordid dust to dust!

Househole, October 29, 1808. R. T———.

* Alluding to her condemnation.

ODE TO FORTUNE.

OH fortune! when I knew thy smiles,
Unconscious of the various wiles,
That earth-born hopes ensnare;
Unspoil'd by art, unvex'd by strife,
I trod the flow'ry path of life,
A stranger yet to care.

Warm'd by the themes of ancient lore,
My mind thro' fancy's realms would soar,
And picture scenes of bliss;
At virtue's name my heart would swell,
My tongue on friendship fondly dwell,
And prate of happiness.

In the big tumult of my soul,
My pulse would throb, my eye would roll,
And dreams of honour feign;

And

And thinking still the substance nigh,
Tho' still deluded, still would try,
The fleeting prize to gain.

So when the clown benighted spies
The meteor* flame, which onward flies,
And shifts as he pursues;
With late remorse, and uncouth haste,
He measures back the weary waste,
And all his wand'rings rues.

Fled are the hopes that oft beguil'd,
Fled are the friends that often smil'd,
And flatter'd to trepan!
Fled are those views of human kind,
Which fed, but still deceiv'd, the mind
With notions false, as man!

Why, mem'ry, why unwisely chuse
To dwell on visionary views,
That to my hopes were given?
Yield to his dark mysterious will,
That weans from earth, by taste of ill,
To teach the way to Heaven.

Some safe retreat then, fortune, give,
Where I in humble peace may live,
And there inglorious die;
I ask no pride-born, useless state,
But, if it be the will of fate,
One faithful friend supply.

And there, if love's assuasive smile,
The wand'rer's sorrows should beguile,
And sooth his aching breast;
Thrice happier than ambition's heir—
Suppress the wish! suspend the prayer,
Mine is a flame unblest.

Clevedon, 1808. THE WANDERER.

* *Ignis fatuus*, or Will o' the Wisp.

THE GREENLAND HUNTER.

A MASQUERADE SONG.

[From Mr. Amphlett's Novel of Ned Bentley]

COLD are the breezes on Greenland's coast,
Where breakers of ice meet the billow;
But love is the Greenland hunter's host,
His pole-star, his pilot, his pillow.
Joyous he welcomes the solar ray,
Dancing the twilight all away.

When the sun o'er his hazy horizon rides,
In his radiant course thus surrounding,
In his fur-clad sledge thro' the vallies he slides,
Where the bear and the beaver are bounding.
How jovial the sport of a Greenland day,
Hunting the six months' sun away.

Pale is the light of the polar star,
From the chase that directs him so weary,
When the sun in the ocean sinks his car,
And consigns him to darkness so dreary.
Then how sweet in the arms of his love to lay,
Slumbering the six months' night away.